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Address: Dr. P. N. Ferns, Zoology Department, University College, Cathays Park, Cardiff.

Undescribed *Acrocephalus* Warblers from Pacific Ocean Islands

by D. T. Holyoak & J.-C. Thibault

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During studies of Polynesian birds we have located old museum specimens of *Acrocephalus* spp. from Pacific Ocean islands that apparently represent 2 undescribed forms. Another form, known only from old descriptions, has been widely overlooked. All 3 populations are now almost certainly extinct, so it seems worthwhile to draw attention to them and give names to the undescribed forms since additional information is unlikely to become available.

Acrocephalus caffer garretti subsp. nov.

Description. Two apparently adult specimens are closely similar in coloration to *Acrocephalus caffer caffer* (Sparrman) from Tahiti (described in detail by Murphy & Mathews 1928), although the pale cream fringes to the feathers of the upperparts of the body may be slightly broader, especially on the rump and uppertail-coverts. However, they are substantially larger than *A. c. caffer*, especially the wing- and tail-length (Table 1). They differ from the large *A. c. longirostris* (Gmelin) of Moorea (described by Murphy & Mathews 1928), which has all but the central pair of retrices mainly pale cream, in having all the rectrices blackish-brown with narrow pale cream tips that are somewhat broader on the outermost feathers. They differ from Marquesas Islands populations in having much paler yellow underparts and other differences in coloration, measurements or both (cf. Murphy & Mathews 1928, Holyoak & Thibault in prep.).

Type. Unsexed and apparently adult specimen with 'Museum Godeffroy' label having data '7915 leg A. Garrett; Huahine, Tahiti' that is registered as number 98.9.1.2535. in the collection of the British Museum (Natural History).

Material examined. Besides the type, another unsexed and apparently adult specimen with identical labelling to that of the type: registered as number 594897 in the collection of the American Museum of Natural History (measurements in Table 1).

TABLE 1

Measurements (mm) of *Acrocephalus caffer* from the Society Islands.
s = one standard deviation.

Form and Range		*Wing*	*Tail*	*Exposed culmen*	*Tarsus*
A. c. garretti (Huahine)	Holotype BM (NH)	106	89	28	33·3
	Paratype AMNH	106	88	27	33
A. c. caffer (Tahiti)	28 ♂♂	97·6 (s 1·94)	80·0 (s 2·14)	25·8 (s 1·18)	31·9 (s 0·87)
	9 ♀♀	95·4 (s 1·74)	77·8 (s 2·21)	25·8 (s 0·66)	30·8 (s 1·06)
A. c. longirostris (Moorea)	2 ♂♂	103, 106	85, 90	29, 30	31, 32
	1 ♀	105	88-5	29·5	30

Etymology. The name honours Andrew Garrett who collected all known specimens of this warbler, and many other Polynesian birds.

Notes. In a paper that has often been overlooked, Gräffe (1873) mentioned a warbler specimen ('*Tatare longirostris* Gml. 1 Exemplar') in the Museum Godeffroy, Hamburg, that was collected on Huahine by Andrew Garrett. Gräffe states that he considers Garrett's locality labels to be reliable and we have come to the same conclusion after seeing many specimens collected by him.

Canon Tristram (1889), in the printed Catalogue to his Collection, listed '*Acrocephalus otatare* . . . (b) Huaheine, 1877.—Garrett'. Tristram obtained numerous specimens from the Museum Godeffroy. In an earlier discussion of warblers from the Society Islands (Tristram 1883: 42) he commented 'Latham's type in the Derby Museum, from Eimeo [=Moorea], and my own from Tahiti and Huaheina are absolutely identical.' In case it be thought that these remarks argue against the distinctness of the Huahine warbler it should be pointed out that Tristram failed also to notice the distinctness of the Moorea population (cf. Murphy & Mathews 1928). Indeed, Tristram himself commented (1883: 42–43) when naming *Acrocephalus mendanae* [a distinctive Marquesan warbler now known as *A. caffer mendanae*], 'The next species I formerly, through unpardonable carelessness, stated to be identical with the Tahiti bird. I can only plead in excuse that I worked by gaslight, and failed to notice the distinction in colouration'. Tristram's specimen from

Huahine was probably lost during bombing in the last war along with most of the other Sylviidae of the old Liverpool Collection.

Andrew Garrett spent many years in Polynesia and collected numerous birds and other natural history specimens. We have seen specimens of *Halcyon tuta tuta* and other birds collected on Huahine by him. It seems likely that either the AMNH or the BM(NH) warbler specimen is the one mentioned by Gräffe, while the other of these like the Liverpool specimen (labelled 1877) was presumably collected after Gräffe wrote in 1873.

In naming the Huahine warbler we recognise that there is a name available for a warbler which may formerly have inhabited the neighbouring island of Raiatea, although the specimen is apparently lost, as discussed in the next section. However, where the species occurs on volcanic islands that are not very close together, taxonomically different populations of *A. caffer* are found on each (Murphy & Mathews 1928, Murphy 1938, Holyoak & Thibault 1977) so there is every likelihood that the virtually unknown Raiatea warbler differed from the Huahine population.

Warblers were not found on Huahine by the Whitney South Sea Expedition in 1921 nor by recent visitors, so there can be little doubt that they are extinct on the island. The Moorea warbler is now extremely rare and the Tahiti population has decreased considerably since the last century (Holyoak 1974, Thibault 1974, Holyoak & Thibault in prep.).

Acrocephalus caffer musae (J. R. Forster)

Oriolus musæ J. R. Forster, 1844, Descr. Anim. ed. Licht., p. 163.

Captain Cook's second and third voyages visited Raiatea, Society Islands, which they knew as Ulietea. Sharpe (1883) identified the bird described by J. R. Forster as *Tatare longirostris* Gmelin [now known as *Acrocephalus caffer longirostris* (Gmelin)] and Stresemann (1950) and Lysaght (1959) have agreed that it is an *Acrocephalus* warbler. J. R. Forster's description was clearly meant to refer to a drawing (no. 55) made by his son Georg Forster on Cook's second expedition, although the description and the drawing differ somewhat (Lysaght 1959), and Georg Forster's bird has been said to have been obtained on Tahiti, not on Ulietea (the drawing is marked Otahaite in unknown handwriting), which J. R. Forster lists as the locality for *Oriolus musæ*.

Stresemann (1950) suggested that Sparrman's type of *A. c. caffer*, which is preserved in the Stockholm Museum was more probably shot at Raiatea than at Tahiti, but there is no direct evidence for this and the specimen agrees with Tahiti birds (Sundevall 1860, Gyldenstolpe 1926, M. D. Bruce pers. comm.). We have been unable to locate any specimens of warblers from Raiatea in museums in Sweden (M. D. Bruce, B.-O. Stolt, L. Wallin, pers. comm.) or elsewhere but there seems little doubt that an *Acrocephalus* warbler was present on this island in the late eighteenth century.

If Georg Forster's plate 55 accurately represents the Raiatea warbler, it was probably a very large form with a very long bill (exposed culmen 34 mm) (cf. Lysaght 1959: 286). Such features could explain the size of the Huahine warbler which seems anomalously large in terms of the patterns of variation in size of Polynesian *Acrocephalus* discussed by Holyoak & Thibault (1977). Gene-flow to Huahine from a larger population of larger warblers on Raiatea could explain the anomaly.

Acrocephalus luscinia astrolabii subsp. nov.

Description. Two apparently adult specimens are closely similar to *Acrocephalus luscinia luscinia* (Quoy & Gaimard) from Guam and Saipan in coloration, with nearly uniform upperparts lacking the pale feather fringes that are prominent in the larger Polynesian *Acrocephalus.* The specimens differ from *A. l. luscinia* in their large size and relatively short bill (Table 2) and their extraordinarily stout tarsi, feet and claws. They are much larger than any of the other warblers of Micronesia (Table 2) and the combination of the coloration, size and heavy feet is quite different from that of any Polynesian or continental warbler.

TABLE 2

Measurements (mm) of *Acrocephalus luscinia.* s = one standard deviation; * indicates measurements made by the authors; superscript numbers refer to footnotes.

Form and Range			*Wing*	*Tail*	*Exposed culmen*	*Tarsus*
A. l. astrolabii subsp. nov. (range uncertain)	Holotype		100	83	29·5	33
	Paratype		99	86·5 (worn)	c 29·5 (broken)	31·5
A. l. luscinia (Quoy & Gaimard) (Marianas Is.: Guam, Saipan, Alamagan)	Saipan	*5 ♂♂	87·5 (s 1·58)	77·6 (s 2·88)	26·5 (s 0·79)	31·1 (s 0·42)
	Guam	*3 ♂♂	87·7 (s 0·76)	74·8 (s 2·93)	29·3 (s 1·61)	29·0 (s 0·50)
	[1]? locality	1 ♀♀	78	73	27	28·5
A. l. yamashinae (Takatsukasa) (Marianas Is.: Pagan)	Pagan	[2]13 ♂♂	75–80	65–70	20–22	
		[2]6 ♀♀	73–77	60–65	20–22	
		[3]5 ♂♂	76–79	66–69		
		[3]2 ♀♀	75, 77	66, 67		
A. l. nijoi (Yamashina) (Marianas Isl: Agiguan)	Agiguan	[4]5			[27–29]	
A. l. syrinx (Kittlitz) (Caroline Is.: Woleai, Lamotrek, Truk, Lukunor, Nukuoro, Ponape, Kusaie)	Truk	*19 ♂♂	78·3 (s 1·47)	70·7 (s 1·97)	19·0 (s 0·66)	27·3 (s 0·93)
		*7 ♀♀	75·3 (s 1·11)	67·1 (s 1·21)	19·2 (s 0·49)	26·7 (s 0·86)
	Ponape	*18 ♂♂	78·4 (s 1·60)	70·3 (s 2·27)	19·8 (s 0·64)	26·7 (s 0·90)
		*13 ♀♀	76·0 (s 1·90)	67·4 (s 1·62)	19·7 (s 0·89)	25·7 (s 1·00)
A. l. rehsei (Finsch) (Nawodo or Pleasant I.)	Nawodo	[5]2 ♂♂	70, 72	59·5, 63·5	[14, 15]	25·5, 25·5
		[5]5 ♀♀	67·5–70	57–59·5	[14]	25·5

Notes. [1]Measurements from Baker (1951). [2]Measurements from Takatsukasa & Yamashina (1931). [3]Measurements of birds in MNHN made by E. Mayr and cited by Baker (1951); [4]from Yamashina (1940) who comments that *nijoi* has a slightly smaller bill than specimens of the nominate form (he gives measurements of 30–34 mm for birds from Saipan, suggesting he may have measured bill length from the gape); it is clear from the description that *nijoi* is little if at all larger overall than the nominate form. [5]Measurements from Finsch (1873), his inches and lines having been converted to mm by us; the very short bill lengths suggest he was measuring the bill from the nares.

Type. Unsexed and apparently adult specimen in the Muséum National d'Histoire Naturelle labelled 'Mangareva, Astrolabe, Philedon chanteur', the locality Mangareva probably being an error (see below). The specimen is numbered 151 and it is registered as number E 8681.

Material examined. Besides the type, another unsexed and apparently adult specimen in the MNHN (no registration number) labelled 'Philedon (chanteur), Nouheva [or Nouhira] 266 Astrolabe' in similar handwriting to that on the label of the type The locality Nouheva [=Nuku Hiva, Marquesas Islands?] is almost certainly an error (see below). For measurements see Table 2.

Etymology. Genitive of mediaeval Latin *astrolabium*, astrolabe, in honour of l'*Astrolabe*, the flagship of Dumont D'Urville's Second Antarctic Expedition.

Notes. The type was registered in the MNHN catalogue as E 8681 following 'D 8681 *Acrocephalus* syrinx K et F. Carolines- Hombron et Jacquinot 1841–106'. E 8681 is marked as ' " " [=*Acrocephalus* syrinx] Mangareva H et J. 1841–112'. There is thus little doubt that E 8681 was obtained on the Antarctic Expedition under Captain J. Dumont D'Urville in the *Astrolabe* and *Zelee*, with Hombron and Jacquinot as naturalists. This expedition travelled widely in the tropical Pacific in 1838–1839 and visited numerous islands in Polynesia and Melanesia and a few in Micronesia.

The published accounts of the naturalists on the expedition give few clues as to the likely origins of these warbler specimens. The characters described above suggest affinity with Micronesian warblers, so it seems likely that the specimens were obtained in Micronesia rather than Melanesia or Polynesia. Lacan & Mougin (1974) suggested the specimens were from Mangareva in the Gambier Islands in accordance with the label on the specimen we have selected as the type, but the conflicting 'Nouheva' [or Nouhira] on the other specimen casts doubt on the reliability of the labelling. Moreover, the large size of these specimens argues against origin on Mangareva as it is not in accordance with the well marked patterns of variation in Polynesian warblers (Holyoak & Thibault 1977), and their resemblance to Micronesian warblers has already been stressed.

Dumont D'Urville (1841–1846) records that the expedition under his charge visited the islands of Losap, Truk, Guam, Yap and Peleliu in Micronesia. *Acrocephalus* of very different appearance are known from Guam and from Truk (Baker 1951; Table 2) and none of the Pacific Islands is known to have more than one type of warbler. It may be speculated that the high volcanic island of Yap, from which no warbler is known, could be the source of the *Astrolabe* specimens. The first real ornithological exploration of Yap took place many years later when Hartlaub & Finsch (1872) described some of the endemic land birds and a warbler could have become extinct before then. However, there is apparently no way in which the origin of this very distinctive warbler can be securely established.

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Addresses: D. T. Holyoak, Department of Geography, University of Reading, No. 2 Earley Gate, Whiteknights Road, Reading RG6 2AU, England.
J.-C. Thibault, 15 rue Daubenton, 75005 Paris, France.

Records of birds from Timor: some additions and corrections

by Murray D. Bruce

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In a catalogue of the Timor specimens in the Museu Bocage, Lisbon, Bacelar (1958) listed seven species as either new to Timor or as range extensions for eastern (formerly Portuguese) Timor. I recently questioned the validity of two of these (Bruce 1975) as at the time I had been unable to obtain information on the specimens in question. This problem was rectified during a visit to the Museu Bocage on 28 November 1977, when I was able to examine all questionable specimens.

Falco s. subbuteo. The single mounted specimen (reg. no. 303G), collected